

### **REMARKS**

A Restriction Requirement was placed on the pending claims. Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, corresponding to claims 1-31. In addition, election of a single species was required because the application was said to contain claims directed to three (3) patentably distinct species, namely the species in which the outer surface is a film (claim 3), the outer surface is a nonwoven web (claim 5), and the outer substrate is elastomeric (claim 6). Applicant responds with traverse because several claims are generic. See MPEP §806.04(d). Currently, the present application includes independent claims 1 and 22, as well as dependent claims 2-21 and 23-30. Independent claims 1 and 22 read on each of the three (3) species identified in the Office Action. Nonetheless, Applicant provisionally elects the species of claim 6, and notes that claims 1-3, 6-22, and 24-31 read on this species.

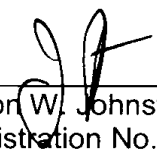
It is believed that the present application is thus in complete condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested. Examiner Nolan is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this response.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Response to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Amdt. Dated Sep. 5, 2003  
Appl. No. 10/027,261  
Reply to Office Action of Aug. 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason W. Johnston  
Registration No. 45,675

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.  
P. O. Box 1449  
Greenville, SC 29602-1449  
Phone: (864) 271-1592  
Facsimile: (864) 233-7342

Date: 9/5/03